

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Know about Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

[Adapted from www.prophetofislam.com]

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Prophet Muhammad ﷺ – A Brief Description

Muhammad Ibn Abdullah ﷺ – the final Prophet of Islam – was born in Makkah in 570 CE, at a time when Christianity was not yet fully established in Europe. Since his father died before his birth, and his mother shortly afterwards, he was raised by his uncle from the respected tribe of Quraysh. As he grew up, he became known for his truthfulness, trustworthiness, generosity and sincerity, so that he was sought after for his ability to arbitrate in disputes. The people of Makkah attested to his truthfulness and trustworthiness and gave him the title of *As-Saadiq* (the Truthful) and *Al-Ameen* (the Trustworthy).

Muhammad ﷺ was of a deeply religious nature, and had long detested the decadence of his society. It became his habit to meditate from time to time in the Cave of Hira near the summit of Jabal an-Noor, the Mountain of Light, near Makkah. At the age of 40, while engaged in a meditative retreat, Muhammad ﷺ received his first revelation from Allah (the one

and only true God) through Angel Jibreel (Gabriel). This revelation, which continued for twenty-three years, is known as Al-Qur'an (the Recitation).

As soon as Muhammad ﷺ began to recite the words he heard from Jibreel, and to preach the truth which Allah had revealed to him, he and his small group of followers suffered bitter persecution, which grew so fierce that in the year 622 Allah gave them the command to emigrate. This historic event, the Hijrah (migration), in which they left Makkah for the city of Madinah some 260 miles to the north, marks the beginning of the Muslim calendar. After several years, the Prophet and his followers were able to return to Makkah, where they forgave their enemies and established Islam definitively.

During the short period of 23 years of his Prophethood, Muhammad ﷺ changed the complete Arabian Peninsula from paganism and idolatry to worship of Allah (the one and only God), from tribal quarrels and wars to national solidarity and cohesion, from drunkenness and debauchery to sobriety and piety, from lawlessness and anarchy to disciplined living, from utter bankruptcy to the highest standards of moral excellence. Human history has never known such a complete transformation of a people or a place, before or since. And, imagine, all these unbelievable wonders in just over two decades! Within a century of his death at the age of 63, Islam had spread as far west as Spain and as far east as China. It was clear that the message was not limited to the Arabs but was meant for the whole of humanity. Although Muhammad ﷺ is deeply loved, revered and followed by Muslims as Allah's final Messenger, yet he is not worshipped by Muslims. Islam strictly prohibits the worship of anyone other than Allah. Muslims worship none but Allah (the one and only true God).

Allah, the Lord and Sustainer of the worlds, says:

“Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets. And ever is Allah, of all things, Knowing.”

[The Qur'an 33:40]

Muhammad ﷺ is the last and final Prophet of God. There has not been and will not be any Messenger or Prophet after him.

“We have sent you not but as a mercy to all the worlds.”

[The Qur'an 21:107]

“Indeed, We have granted you *al-Kawthar*. Therefore, pray to your Lord and sacrifice (to Him alone). Indeed, it is your enemy who is the one cut off (from all future hope).”

[The Qur'an 108:1-3]

Al-Kawthar means abundant good and a special river in Paradise.

“Verily you are on an exalted standard of character.”

[The Qur'an 68:4]

What do others say about him?

One of the first examples we quote from is from the Encyclopedia Britannica, as it confirms:

(Regarding Muhammad) "... a mass of detail in the early sources shows that he was an honest and upright man who had gained the respect and loyalty of others who were likewise honest and upright men."

[Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 12]

Another impressive tribute to Muhammad ﷺ is in the very well written work of Michael H. Hart, "The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History." He states that the most influential person in all history was Muhammad ﷺ. Examine his actual words:

"My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular level."

[Michael H. Hart, THE 100: A RANKING OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN HISTORY, New York: Hart Publishing Company, Inc., 1978, page. 33]

According to the Qur'an, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the most excellent example for all of humanity. Even non-Muslim historians recognize him to be one of the most successful personalities in history. Read what the Reverend R. Bosworth-Smith wrote in "Mohammed & Mohammedanism" in 1946:

"Head of the state as well as the Church, he was Caesar and Pope in one; but, he was pope without the pope's claims, and Caesar without the legions of Caesar, without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a palace, without a fixed revenue. If ever any man had the right to say that he ruled by a Right Divine, it was Mohammad, for he had all the power without instruments and without its support. He cared not for dressing of power. The simplicity of his private life was in keeping with his public life."

While we are reviewing statements from famous non-Muslims about Prophet Muhammad ﷺ consider this:

"Philosopher, orator, apostle, legislator, warrior, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational dogmas, of a cult without images; the founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire,

that is Muhammad. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?"

[Lamartine, HISTOIRE DE LA TURQUIE, Paris, 1854, Vol. II, pp. 276-277]

And then we read what George Bernard Shaw, a famous non-Muslim writer says:

"He must be called the Savior of Humanity. I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it much needed peace and happiness."

[The Genuine Islam, Singapore, Vol. 1, No. 8, 1936]

Then we found that K. S. Ramakrishna Rao, an Indian (Hindu) professor of Philosophy, in his booklet "Muhammad - the Prophet of Islam" calls him the "perfect model for human life." Professor Ramakrishna Rao explains his point by saying:

"The personality of Muhammad, it is most difficult to get into the whole truth of it. Only a glimpse of it I can catch. What a dramatic succession of picturesque scenes. There is Muhammad the Prophet. There is Muhammad the Warrior; Muhammad the Businessman; Muhammad the Statesman; Muhammad the Orator; Muhammad the Reformer; Muhammad the Refuge of Orphans; Muhammad the Protector of Slaves; Muhammad the Emancipator of Women; Muhammad the Judge; Muhammad the Saint. All in all these magnificent roles, in all these departments of human activities, he is alike a hero."

What should we think about our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ when someone with the worldly status such as Mahatma Gandhi,

speaking on the character of Muhammad ﷺ says in 'Young India':

"I wanted to know the best of one who holds today undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind... I became more than convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the Prophet, the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. These and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every obstacle. When I closed the 2nd volume (of the Prophet's biography), I was sorry there was not more for me to read of the great life."

English author Thomas Carlyle in his 'Heroes and Hero-Worship' was simply amazed:

"How one man single-handedly, could weld warring tribes and wandering Bedouins into a most powerful and civilized nation in less than two decades."

Diwan Chand Sharma wrote in 'The Prophets of the East':

"Muhammad was the soul of kindness, and his influence was felt and never forgotten by those around him."

[D.C. Sharma, The Prophets of the East, Calcutta, 1935, pp. 12]

Muhammad ﷺ was nothing more or less than a human being, but he was a man with a noble mission, which was to unite humanity on the worship Allah alone and to teach them the way to honest and upright living based on the commands of Allah. He always described himself as a servant and messenger of God.

Speaking on the aspect of equality before God in Islam, the famous poetess of India, Sarojini Naidu says:

"It was the first religion that preached and practiced democracy; for, in the mosque, when the call for prayer is sounded and worshippers are gathered together, the democracy of Islam is embodied five times a day when the peasant and king kneel side by side and proclaim: 'God Alone is Great'... I have been struck over and over again by this indivisible unity of Islam that makes man instinctively a brother." [S. Naidu, Ideals of Islam, vide Speeches & Writings, Madras, 1918, p. 169]

In the words of Professor Hurgonje:

"The league of nations founded by the prophet of Islam put the principle of international unity and human brotherhood on such universal foundations as to show candle to other nations." He continues, "the fact is that no nation of the world can show a parallel to what Islam has done towards the realization of the idea of the League of Nations."

Edward Gibbon and Simon Ockley, on the profession of ISLAM, writes in 'History of the Saracen Empires':

"I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, AND MAHOMET, AN APOSTLE OF GOD' is the simple and invariable profession of Islam. The intellectual image of the Deity has never been degraded by any visible idol; the honor of the Prophet have never transgressed the measure of human virtues; and his living precepts have restrained the gratitude of his disciples within the bounds of reason and religion."

[History of the Saracen Empires, London, 1870, p. 54]

Wolfgang Goethe, perhaps the greatest European poet ever, wrote about Prophet Muhammad ﷺ as he said:

"He is a prophet and not a poet and therefore his Koran is to be seen as Divine Law and not as a book of a human being, made for education or entertainment."

What do the Muslims say about him?

Considering the qualities and teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ testified to by so many people throughout history and even testified to by Allah Himself, we conclude the following to be only a partial list of the qualities, morals and virtues of our beloved Prophet, Muhammad ﷺ.

(A) **Articulate** – Muhammad ﷺ although unable to read or write throughout his entire life, was able to express himself in clear and decisive terms and in the best of classical Arabic language.

(B) **Brave** – Muhammad ﷺ was praised for his courage and bravery during and after his life by his followers and opponents alike. He has always been an inspiration to Muslims and even non-Muslims throughout the centuries.

(C) **Courteous** – Muhammad ﷺ always put other people's feelings ahead of his own and was the most courteous of hosts and the best of guests wherever he went.

(D) **Dedicated** – Muhammad ﷺ was determined to carry out his mission and present the message with which he had been sent, to the entire world.

(E) **Eloquent** – Muhammad ﷺ claimed he was not a poet, yet he could express himself in the most concise manner, using the least amount of words in a most classic manner. His words are still quoted by millions of Muslims and non-Muslims today everywhere.

(F) **Friendly** – Muhammad ﷺ was noted for being the most friendly and considerate of all who knew him.

(G) **Generous** – Muhammad ﷺ was most generous with his possessions and never wanted to keep anything if there was anyone who was in need. This was true of gold, silver, animals and even food and drink.

(H) **Hospitable** – Muhammad ﷺ was indeed, noted to be the most gracious of hosts and taught his companions and followers to be the best of hosts to all their guests as a part of their religion.

(I) **Intelligent** – Muhammad ﷺ has been proclaimed by many commentators who have studied his life and actions, to be of the most intelligent of all men who ever lived.

(J) **Just** – Muhammad ﷺ was most fair and just in all of his dealings. Whether in business or in giving judgment in any matter, he practiced justice on all levels.

(K) **Kindness** – Muhammad ﷺ was kind and considerate to everyone he met. He tried his best to present the message of worship of the Creator instead of the creations to all he met in the kindest fashion and most considerate manner.

(L) **Loving** – Muhammad ﷺ was the most loving toward Allah and to his family members, friends, companions and even those who did not accept his message but remained peaceful to him and his followers.

(M) **Messenger of Mercy** – Muhammad ﷺ is proclaimed in the Qur'an by Allah, as being sent as mercy to all the worlds.

(N) **Noble** – Muhammad ﷺ was the most noble and distinguished of all men. Everyone who knows him is aware of his fine character and honourable background.

(O) **'Oneness'** – Muhammad ﷺ is most famous for his proclamation of the 'Oneness of Allah', called *Tawheed* (Islamic Monotheism).

(P) **Patient** – Muhammad ﷺ was the most steadfast and forbearing in all of the trials and tests he lived through.

(Q) **Quiet** – Muhammad ﷺ was often very quiet and was not heard to be boastful, loud or obnoxious on any occasion.

(R) **Resourceful** – Muhammad ﷺ was most clever and resourceful in handling even the most serious of difficulties and problems confronting him and his companions.

(S) **Straightforward** – Muhammad ﷺ was known by all to speak directly to a subject and not twist things around in his speech. He also used a minimal amount of verbiage and considered excessive talk to be vain and unproductive.

(T) **Tactful** – Muhammad ﷺ was the most delicate and tactful in his dealings with the people. He never scratched the dignity of someone, even though unbelievers often insulted him and maligned him.

(U) **Unmatched** – Muhammad ﷺ is known throughout the world today as the man who most influenced the lives of so many people during his own time and for all times to come.

(V) **Valiant** – Muhammad ﷺ gave new meaning to the word valiant and he was always most honourable in all of his affairs, whether defending the rights of orphans or preserving the honour of widows or fighting for those in distress. He was not

intimidated when outnumbered in battle, nor did he turn away from his duties in protecting and defending the truth and freedom.

(W) **Wali** – The Arabic word 'Wali' (plural is Awliya) is a bit difficult to bring into English without some explanation. For this reason I decided to leave it in Arabic and offer from my humble understanding one of the most important aspects of the character and personality of Muhammad ﷺ. Some say the word means; protector and other have said those in whom you put full trust and confide everything like the Catholics might do with their priests. While still others simply offered the word friends. The meaning might be closer to the English word 'ally'. This is perhaps, a lot closer in meaning because when a person gives their pledge of allegiance to someone he or she is taking that person as a Wali and this is called giving Bayah in Arabic. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the example of the most trustworthy and loyal of all human beings who ever lived on this earth. Anything mentioned to him in confidence would never be divulged nor shared with others. And when he was put in place of authority, they found him to be the best of those to be trusted.

(X) **'X'** – Muhammad ﷺ could neither read nor write, not even his own name. In today's world he would have to use an "X" to "sign" a document. He used a signet ring worn on the little finger of his right hand to seal any documents or letters sent to the leaders of other lands.

(Y) **Yielding** – Muhammad ﷺ would yield his own desires and forego his own ideas in favour of whatever Allah directed him to do. While considering opinions from his followers, he

often accepted their ideas over his own, preferring to yield in favour of others as much as possible.

(Z) **Zealous** – Muhammad ﷺ was the most zealous of all the Prophets of Allah, in carrying out his mission of "Peace through the submission to the Will of God." He truly was the most enthusiastic in regard to delivering the message with which he had been entrusted by Allah; the message of **“Laa laaha illallaah Muhammadur-Rasoolulaah”** meaning: There is no god but Allah; Muhammad (ﷺ) is the Messenger of Allah.

**** Some Recommended Books***

The Sealed Nectar (Seerat-un-Nabi ﷺ)

(Safi-ur-Rahman Mubarakpuri)

The Lies about Muhammad ﷺ – How you were deceived into Islamophobia

(Moustafa Zayed)

Seerat-un-Nabi ﷺ and the Orientalists

(Muhammad Mohar Ali)

[Note: ﷺ – Sallallaahu Alaihi Wa Sallam – means: may Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him]

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